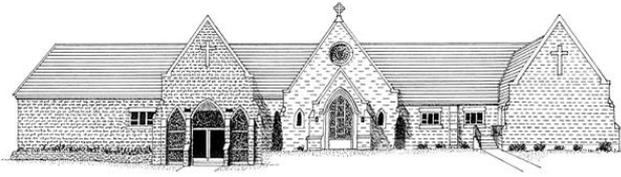


# THE MESSENGER



Monthly news for Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Menominee, Michigan

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**MAY**

**2022**

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## FROM THE PASTOR

During Jesus' last supper with his disciples, he shared words with them which were words of comfort, words of promise, and words of prayer, among so many others. During this narrative, Jesus also says that, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful." (St. John 15:1-2) As we (finally!) enter into spring and new life abounds around us, these are practical words for us, words which we can put into practice in our gardens.

But these are also words which we can put into practice in our church. We have given our members the opportunity to gather for worship in-person for nearly 15 months now since returning from what felt like a time of pandemic exile. During this time gathering together we have monitored attendance and active participation patterns, as well as worship attendance figures. What we have seen pretty consistently for this extended period now is that while our financial giving is slightly beneath pre-pandemic levels, our active in-person worship attendance has plateaued at only about 60% of what it was prior to the pandemic (37 average at 8:00 and 60 average for 10:00) and that there are less members willing to serve as ushers/readers/communion assistants for worship, forcing us to reach out to the same persons more often, for which we have been grateful that they have answered the call.

We will go to just one 9:00 Sunday service over summer beginning on Memorial Day weekend, but as I have monitored, prayed, and reflected on our participation and worship figures, I also proposed during the April congregation council meeting that we may want to consider adopting a permanent schedule of having only one service on Sunday mornings. The reasons I propose this are: 1) We have a sanctuary which can seat over 350 persons, yet, between both services, we consistently have less than 100 persons in worship, a number which we can easily and comfortably accommodate. 2) It will create more energy. I will admit that as a pastor, it can be difficult to cultivate a congregational energy when there are only

30 persons scattered around this very large sanctuary. Visitors during these services may feel isolated and be left wondering if there is greater activity in the church. 3) It will enable us to combine the roster of those who are willing to serve as worship assistants, lessening the load for those who are able to consistently step forward. 4) This will give the traditional 8:00 worshippers an opportunity to not only hear the choirs sing (traditionally done at 10:00), but will give them the opportunity to join and participate as well. 5) It will assist in creating fellowship and interpersonal relationships between those who rarely see one another in worship or in the church. 6) If you were at the annual meeting, you may recall that we adopted a budget for this year in which we are operating with a deficit. While it would be a minimal reduction to the deficit, it would be a stewardship practice to only have to pay our musicians for one service each Sunday instead of two.

I know that this proposal may not be a popular idea among many of us who find joy and comfort in our current practices, but I ask you to prayerfully consider this adoption for the health and sustainability of the church in the years to come. Several of you have shared with me about when our congregation had three scheduled services on Sunday morning and the difficulty in having to adapt to having only two. I know that going from two to one could be, and probably would be, very well be difficult to adapt to as well. As the current pastor, it is hard for me to swallow that we've reached this level during my tenure here and that this pruning may be necessary. There is no doubt that these kinds of decisions and situations can be difficult to navigate for all of us.

Which is why we are ultimately leaving this decision up to you. During the first four Sundays of May (May 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>) there will be an opportunity for you to vote on a couple of items related to worship: 1) If you support going to 1 service permanently, and 2) If you would like to have our 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday outdoor worship services during the summer months again. I will compile all of this information and bring it to the church council where we will faithfully act upon it in a way which reflects the feelings of the congregation.

As you prayerfully consider this, please remember, that even if we do go to only one service for the immediate future, should the need arise, we can always return to two. That's what pruning does. It cuts off the dead and damaged so that new life can grow. May we always be faithful and responsive to what Christ is doing around us and through us, as well as where and how God is leading us.

In Christ,

*Pastor Mark*

## **EMMANUEL BUDGET NEWS**

**As of March 31, 2022**

<b>*Your Contributions to the General Fund</b>	<b>\$51,664.40</b>
<b>*Your Approved Budget Amount</b>	<b>\$65,776.84</b>

A Memorial Gift was given in loving memory of ***Ervin and Fran Mouritsen*** on what would have been each of their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, by Marilyn Mouritsen toward the recently repaired glass windows around our front door of our church. This is a gift that will be enjoyed by our church and our neighborhood for years to come.



***Marian Johnson*** passed away on November 20, 2021. The funeral service for Marian will be held at Emmanuel on Saturday, May 7, at 11:00 a.m. Our sympathy to her children; Cheryl Johnson (Wayne Widmann) of Jackson, MI; David Johnson (Karen) of Kalkaska, MI; Denise Johnson Cooney (Jim) of Concord, MI. May all who mourn be filled with the promised hope and joy of resurrection of life eternal.



This month, many of us will be observing Memorial Day. Although it is not a religious celebration, it is an important occasion of honoring those who have died. Memorial Day is typically dedicated to our national heroes, but it is a wonderful time to remember and honor those in our family who have passed away. Some

activities you can do as a family to observe Memorial Day include:

Visiting a museum or memorial dedicated to national heroes.

Attending a community Memorial Day parade or service.

Visiting and tending the graves of loved ones.

Sharing stories about loved ones.

Another wonderful family activity you can do over the Memorial Day weekend, is to trace your family's roots by creating a family tree keepsake with your children. Learn where family members who have passed away were born, lived, went to school, worked, attended church, where they were baptized, married, had their funerals and where they are now buried. This provides an opportunity for your children to learn about their roots, their family's faith journey, and remember loved ones who have passed away. Churches can be a source of baptismal, confirmation, wedding, and funeral information. There are numerous simple family tree templates on Pinterest and Google that you can print and fill in. Or, you can use online platforms such as Ancestry.com and dig even deeper!

If you would like to share what your family does to nurture faith at home, please let me know!

- Patti Treptow, Director of Youth & Family Ministry

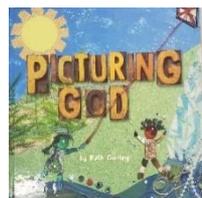


### **Children's Library "Book of the Month"**

Our book spotlighted this month is "Picturing God".

Written with poetic language and mixed media illustrations, poet and artist Ruth Goring invites children as well as adults to reflect on the beautiful imagery found in

Scripture. Our library is located in the Sunday school wing at the end of the hallway. There are numerous books, DVDs, and videos that may be checked out. Come and visit!





## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school classes are quickly coming to an end for the year. The last day is **Sunday, May 22nd** where we will celebrate a great year of learning at Water Tower Park in Menominee during our regular Sunday school time. See more information on the end of the year celebration below.

A special thank you goes out to our wonderful and dedicated Sunday school staff:

PreK/Kindergarten: Rachel Magrane and Olivia Stewart

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Karie Nelson

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Margaret Stewart

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Patti Treptow

Bible Story Sunday Team: Sharon Ayers and Patti Treptow



## Sunday School End of the Year Party

**Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**9:45 - 11:15 a.m.**

**Water Tower Park - Menominee**

The Little Lutheran's Youth Committee will be hosting this end of the year celebration. Our children will play games as well as enjoy the amenities of the park. Pizza, ice cream, and juice will be served. Parents may drop off their children at the park by 9:45 a.m. so they have time to get to church for the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Teachers and chaperones will remain at the park until all children have been picked up by their parents.

## First Communion



Seven students completed four weeks of instruction during Lent to prepare for their First Holy Communion. The students and their families celebrated the Lord's Supper with a symbolic Seder Meal and received their first Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 14th.

Thank you to Donna Hipke and Nancy Camps for preparing the Seder Meal. We welcome the following to the Lord's Table:

*Top Row: Brayden Daigneau, Ella Chouinard, Brody Daigneau, Mylie Slawinski.  
Bottom Row: Kiefer Chouinard, Brady Sallgren, Colin Gleisner*



## Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 5th



Emmanuel's high school graduates will be honored at our "Graduation Recognition" during the 9:00 a.m. worship service on June 5<sup>th</sup>. A letter with more information on this special event will be going out soon to all parents of our high school graduates.



## GLOW Youth Night

May 4th, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

All high school youth are invited for a night of faith, food, and fun!

Our GLOW youth would like to thank everyone who helped with and attended our Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on Palm Sunday. Thank you also to those who donated items for our Menominee Animal Shelter collection. The donations included a nice variety of items as well as a generous Walmart gift card. The staff at MAS were very appreciative! Here are a few photos of our service work we did there on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our GLOW youth and leaders cleaned kennels and animal areas both inside and out. During our stay, we did get a chance to visit with some of the shelter animals.





## ***Ignite Afterschool Program at Emmanuel 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth***

Wednesdays - September through May  
3:30-5:00 p.m.

Our last program day for this year is May 25th

### ***Adult Bible Study***

Resumed Monday, April 25, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Have you ever doubted your salvation? Or sought to understand salvation and the Holy Spirit more?

One chapter in the Bible offers answers to our questions about deep, biblical truths. In *Romans VIII: The Greatest Chapter in the Bible*, Dr. David Jeremiah takes you verse-by-verse through Romans 8, explaining the truths contained in this incredible chapter. Everything you need to know about the Christian walk, from the assurance of your salvation to the work of the Holy Spirit, can be found in this powerful text – encouraging and enabling you to live your life the way God intended it to be lived. Robin Gustafson leads this adult education opportunity each Monday evening at 6:30 in the Friendship Room at church.

### ***Care & Share Alzheimer's Support***

A support group for caregivers of loved ones with Alzheimer's and other dementias is offered at Emmanuel every Wednesday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the church Narthex. Meetings are casual, so you are free to come and go throughout the meeting time.

### ***Yoga at Emmanuel***

Tuesday's, 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Join us for this wonderful exercise taught by Sally VanEyck, certified yoga instructor. All abilities are welcome - new to yoga or experienced, this class is for you! Dress comfortably, bring a yoga mat and water. Classes are \$5.00 per session.

## ***Seeking Enlightenment Group***

The third Thursday of the month, at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a time of sharing and encouraging each other on our Christian journey, contact Robin Gustafson at 906-290-1003 for location details.

## *Holy Grounds Coffee Hour*



Join us in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

What is Emmanuel's Holy Grounds? Holy Grounds is a coffee hour to get together and chat, share, or even just say Hello! Besides coffee, we can serve hot chocolate, teas, even apple cider, and sometimes treats! Fellowship has organized this time, after 2 long years of Covid restrictions, for members to be able to chat and refresh relationships, or even develop a new one with someone they may not know!

In the future, Fellowship plans to have some music, a display from one of our many talented members, and even offer Bible trivia questions - no competition, just fun!

Fellowship Team will host once every quarter on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, and Judy B has offered to host on the first Sunday of the month - thank you to Judy! If you would like to host, we have a "to-do" sheet to give you guidance and a team member will be happy to show you how for the first time.

The sign-up sheet is always on the table before you enter the Sanctuary - please consider signing up, with a friend, a family member or one of team to get you started.

Fellowship Team Members: Sue Larson, Ronda Pedersen, Debbie Thoune, Joanna Magrane, and Terrie Porras.

There will be a **church clean-up day**,  
outside the church, on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>,  
from 8:00am – 12:00pm.

All are invited to take part in this important day  
of beautifying our already stunning church campus!

### *New Members*

There will be a class for any interested in joining Emmanuel Lutheran church as members on Wednesday evening, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. We will welcome our newest members on the following Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are interested, or know someone who may be interested in membership, please contact the church at 863-3431 and let us know.

### **Synod Assembly noisy offering for World Hunger and Workshop offerings**

Emmanuel will once again participate in collecting an offering for Lutheran World Hunger relief on the first two Sundays of May, May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup> (Synod Assembly is Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>).

Also, for anyone interested in taking part in the **Synod Assembly Zoom workshops** available during the week leading up to the assembly (Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>), they are available to anyone at no cost. Simply go to [nglsynod.org](http://nglsynod.org) and click on the Synod Assembly page where the schedule of events is located and register to get on the invitation list.

### *Thank You*

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Lent Socks and Underwear Challenge! We collected 87 packages of socks and 71 packages of underwear that will be distributed to those in need.**

# SUNDAY MORNINGS AT EMMANUEL

**8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. in person**  
**Online Worship 8:00 a.m.**  
**Livestreamed on our Facebook page**

## CONTACT US:

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or

Visit us on the Web at [www.e-mmanuel.com](http://www.e-mmanuel.com)



*Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at*  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church Menominee Michigan ELCA

## STAFF:

*Pastor*

The Rev. Mark Laatsch - Cell Phone: 906-424-0003

Email: [pastor2901@e-mmanuel.com](mailto:pastor2901@e-mmanuel.com)

*Director of Youth & Family Ministry*

Mrs. Patti Treptow

*Church Secretary*

Mrs. Judy Raygo

*Custodian- inside* Mrs. Carol Parrish

*Custodian – outside* Mr. Lee Parrish



We are a congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America